went northwards, and quarrelled with Salabat Jang, Shaikh Ibrahim alias Ibrahim 'Ali Khan who accompanied M. Bussy, secretly helped Salabat Jang. M. Bussy disapproved this conduct of Shaikh Ibrahim, who besides sought shelter with a Telugu Vellala zamindar called Ranga Rao, owning the zamin of Bobbili with a killa, about 50 miles north-west of Chicaocale yielding 3 lakhs, and gave him a naubat, etc., and also made friends with Vijayarama Raja. M. Bussy therefore marched against this man with 2,000 soldiers, 10,000 sepoys, guns and other munitions of war; and with Saiyid-ullah Khan, Haidar Jang (son of J'afar 'Ali Khan) some sardars, 2,000 horse and 40,000 foot who had joined him from Ellore and Rajahmundry. They camped at Kasimkota. Vijayarama Raja of Vizianagar about 50 miles north of Kasimkota hearing of the advance of M. Bussy, wished to see him. But before setting out he sent word secretly to Ibrahim 'Ali Khan at Bobbili that, as M. Bussy, the protector of all, was coming, it would therefore be improper to help him and that he should therefore depart. Having thus sent word he set out with his followers and went to Kasimkota where he had an interview with M. Bussy. Zamindar Ranga Rao who was in the fort of Bobbili also sent word to Shaikh Ibrahim that, as M. Bussy, their protector was coming, he must leave the country, otherwise he would be in danger. Thereon Shaikh Ibrahim left Bobbili and hid himself in a distant place. Now Vijayarama Raja had a grudge against Ranga Rao of Bobbili, as for a long time the latter had not shown him due respect; so Vijayarama Raja resolved to join M. Bussy, and with him to seize the Bobbili fort and country and kill Ranga Rao. With this object, he encouraged M. Bussy to take the fort and country. M. Bussy agreed. Vijayarama Raja therefore marched with an army of 2,000 horse, 40,000 foot, 8,000 artillery, with his sardars, 40 elephants, guns and munitions of war. The combined armies marched by way of Chicaocale to attack Bobbili about 100 miles away and encamped near the fort. Negotiations were begun with Ranga Rao; but as he would not come to an agreement, M. Bussy marched with a small army to attack the fort; about 5,000 of Ranga Rao's picked men came out and fought so boldly with M. Bussy's men that the latter could not stand, but retreated. Vijayarama Raja, ill-brooking this retreat, mounted on his elephant, and having advanced with his army, beat off Ranga Rao's people, approached the fort, crossed the ditch by filling it with bundles of straw, and scaled the walls, while M. Bussy's men scaled the walls from the other side, after a severe fight in which 18
officers, 200 soldiers, 2,000 foot and 1,000 artillery people on M. Bussy’s side, and sepoys, guards, Carnatic infantry sardârs—5,000 in all—on the side of the Râjâ—8,000 or 9,000 on both sides—perished, and the ditch ran red with blood. When the fort had been captured, M. Bussy warned Vijayarâma Râjâ that he would be making an enemy if he left a single child alive in the fort. The Râjâ gave orders accordingly as is the European custom, and directed all in the fort, the troops and even women with child should be slain; and thus men, women and even pregnant women and children in the fort—10,000 in number—were killed, including Ranga Râo himself, but his younger brother who was severely wounded survived. Vijayarâma Râjâ recommended M. Bussy to allow his wounds to be dressed. He was therefore removed to a tent for treatment and, in token of victory, the French flag was hoisted on the fort, the naubat was beaten, sugar was distributed to the army, and festivities were held. But after Vijayarâma Râjâ and M. Bussy had retired to their respective tents, one of Ranga Râo’s people who had escaped, went to Vijayarâma Râjâ’s tent in order to put him to death, and telling the chowkidars that Ranga Râo’s younger brother had refused to have his wounds dressed, desired them to tell Vijayarâma Râjâ the news. The chowkidars did so. Vijayarâma Râjâ then ordered the man who had brought the news to be brought. The guards admitted him, after searching him for weapons; but they did not find a folding knife which he took with him into the Râjâ’s presence. He then announced that he bore a secret message, and, being allowed to approach, he ripped up the Râjâ’s belly with his knife, so tearing the intestines that he died. Immediately the treacherous man was killed. M. Bussy in great grief wrote this sad news to Ananda Râjâ, alias Jagapati Râjâ, the son of Vijayarâma Râjâ’s elder brother at Vizianagar desiring him to come, and on the news Vijayarâma Râjâ’s second wife threw herself down a well and perished, while the first wife had to be guarded by those near her. When Jagapati Râjâ visited M. Bussy, the latter consoled him with kind words, saying, ‘As this was the will of God, do not fear. The Bobbili fort taken by your father shall be yours together with country yielding two lakhs.’ So saying he installed him on the throne, and his people are said to be there.

This Vijayarâma Râjâ was born in the year Sarvadhâri, and in this year, Dhâthu, he completed his 49th year. His father’s name was Ananda Râjâ and they belong to the solar line of kings. Vijayarâma Râjâ was made